(b) if so, in what context such a decision was taken at the Chief Ministers meet;

(c) whether some of the States failed to comply with the said agreement; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons advanced by these States therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) The Chief Ministers Conference held on 3rd March, 2001 resolved that "it is necessary to move away from the regime of providing free power. The past decision of CMs of a minimum agricultural tariff of 50 paise may be implemented immediately".

(b) This has been done in the context of the past decisions of:-

(i) Chief Ministers' conference held in 1993

(ii) Recommendations of the National Development Council (NDC) Committee of Chief Ministers of Power in 1994

(iii) Power Ministers' Conference held in 1996

aimed at rationalization of tariff and facilitating the achievement of commercial viability in the power sector.

(c) and (d) Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu were giving free supply of electricity to the agriculture sector till recently. Punjab has recently imposed a tariff on agriculture consumption. Madhya Pradesh has now restricted free supply to only small and marginal farmers of SC/ ST category. Tamil Nadu Electricity Board has also proposed imposition of tariff for agricultural supplies in their tariff petition filed before the State Electricity Regulatory Commission.

Visit of Officers of Power Grid Corporation of India to China

*212. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR:
SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation from Power Grid Corporation of India visited China recently on a fact finding mission;

(b) whether the delegation studied the Chinese version of Power Grid Management putting more emphasis on regional/provincial grid networks in contrast to Indian system of creation of a national grid; if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) whether the Power Grid Corporation has initiated work on improvement of load dispatch/communication systems through advanced energy management systems?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) On the invitation of erstwhile State Power Corporation of China, a delegation comprising CMD, POWERGRID, a Joint Secretary in Ministry of Power and an Executive Director of POWERGRID visited China during January, 2003 to exchange experience on transmission system and grid operation.

(b) The delegation visited National and Regional Power Despatch Centres and various power stations including Three Gorges Project and HVDC station in China. The delegation also studied the Chinese power system *vis-a-vis* the power system in India. Chinese power system is being operated in six regional and twenty-nine provincial grids. China is in the process of interconnecting the regional grids which would ultimately culminate into formation of a National Grid. Thus, the Chinese transmission system is heading towards strong regional/inter-regional grids and National Grid like in India. As regards development of National grid in India, the country has completed its first phase and has entered into the second phase.

(c) POWERGRID has already completed its state-of-the-art Load Despatch and Communication facilities in Northern and Southern Regions. Similar Facilities are under implementation in Eastern, North-Eastern and Western Regions also.

Security in Central Government Offices

*213. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to improve security in Central Government Offices;